

617 C St NE  
Washington DC 20002

Chief Dennis Rubin  
1923 Vermont Ave NW  
Rm 201 S  
Washington DC 20001

14 January 2008

Dear Chief Rubin,

I am writing to say thank you for a tour of the Engine Co 18, Truck Company 7 that my son, along with 5 other Tiger Scouts and parents received on 12 January 2008. We are all members of Capitol Hill Boy Scout Pack 230. The Tiger Scouts visited the firehouse as part of the requirements for their Tiger Scout Badge. The six scouts were all first graders, and very impressed with the duties of the firemen.

Everyone in the fire house was very welcoming and the Scouts felt right at home and safe. Two of your Probationary Fire Fighters, Brian Clement and Alex Joyner, gave the tour of the fire house, explained their duties as firemen, demonstrated their equipment and uniforms, and answered questions from both the children and the parents. Brian and Alex did an outstanding job representing themselves and your department – they were highly professional, personable, informative and reflected very well upon the District of Columbia Fire Department. They explained complex, difficult tasks and responsibilities in simple, easy to understand manner that even the Tiger Scouts were able to grasp. The Tiger Scouts were very impressed with the multitude of equipment the fire fighters need and how heavy everything was, from the uniforms to the various tools. The Tiger Scouts answered correctly all the basic fire safety questions that Brian and Alex asked, ("stop drop and roll," "911," "stay close to the floor," etc) and have a very positive impression of fire fighters as people they can trust and turn to for help.

Brian and Alex, even as mere Probationary Fire Fighters, seem to be representative of the knowledge and professionalism of all of the DC Fire Fighters; I feel very confident that Washington DC has one of the best fire departments in the country. Again, I just wanted to say thank you, and commend you on the exceptional training that your firefighters must be getting – Brian and Alex did an outstanding job of representing your organization as a whole, and Engine Co 18, Truck Co 7 in particular.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Ries  
LtCol, U.S. Marine Corps